DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0737 / 183219.01
Application No.: 10/017,689
Office Action Dated: February 21, 2006

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 8, and 13 being the independent claims. In summary of the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-15, 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asami et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0123991 A1) in view of Todd (U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0047352 A1).

Applicants have considered the rejection prepared by the examiner and have amended the claims to more clearly recite the claimed invention. As amended, applicants submit that the examiner's statement is no longer applicable that Todd discloses:

> data structure is one of multiple data formats as wire-format or
> second message in a prescribe format suitable for that
> application, that is response to the query and sending the query
> to an in-memory as memory for storing data in a data structure
> for storing a plurality of message or data (parg. 0035, page 3,
> parg. 0031, lines 1-15).

Action, p. 3. Applicants submit that the claim 1 as amended teaches that;

> sending the query to at least two different objects wherein each
> object determines whether an in-memory data structure
> maintained by each object satisfies the query.

Accordingly, it is the data structure that is in-memory of more than one object where each data structure is one of multiple formats that patentably defines over Asami in view of Todd. One example of this is disclosed in Applicants' specification wherein it points out that:

> Additionally, in a distributed computing environment, a client
> can merely broadcast a query to all digital devices in a network
> and have each digital device transform the query to the
> appropriate internal format, perform the local query, and
> transmit the results back to the requesting client.

Application, p. 12. In other words, the query that is applied is of a single format and the data structure can be maintained in multiple formats on multiple different objects.

Independent claim 8 also patently defines over Asami in view of Todd. Claim 8 recites in part:

> a query transmission mechanism for transmitting the type query
> and the value over a communication network to at least two
> digital device whereby each digital device compares the data
> type to a data type of a data structure that it maintains in-
> memory and compares the value to a value stored in the data

structure wherein said data structure is one of at least two
different formats.

Independent claim 13 patentably defines over Asami in view of Todd. Claim 13

recites in part:

>   indicating in a response to the query whether the query data
>   type matches the data structure data type and whether the query
>   value matched the value stored in the data structure.

The examiner cites to a portion of Asami that teaches:

>   If the data type being queried is a newly added data type, the
>   query component information is searched for a query
>   component for assisting querying data belonging to the
>   particular data type.

Asami at [0025]. However, this portion of Asami merely teaches that new types can be

added to the system of Asami. This portion of Asami does not teach that an indication of a

data type and a match of a value stored in a query is indicated in response to a query, as

claimed by claim 13.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 8 and 13 patentably define

over Asami in view of Todd. Inasmuch as claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-15 and 17-20 depend from

claims 1, 8 and 13, Applicants submit that they also patentably define over the cited

references at least for the same reasons.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asami et al.

(U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0123991 A1) in view of Todd (U.S. Patent Application

No. 2001/0047352 A1) further in view of Gombocz et al. (U.S. Patent Application No.

2002/0156792 A1).

Inasmuch as claim 16 depends from claim 13, Applicants submit that it also defines

over the cited references at least for the reasons set forth above.
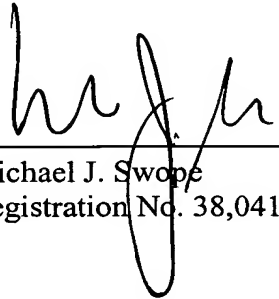
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CONCLUSION

Applicants' representative submits that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance.

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